

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN



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March 1, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske
United States of House Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States of House Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the 55,000 general pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists who comprise the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to endorse your recently introduced legislation, *The Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001*. We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to ensure that this much-needed patient protection legislation becomes law this year.

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We are especially pleased that your legislation recognizes the unique needs of children. Children are not little adults. Their medical care should be provided only by physicians who are appropriately educated and trained on their unique physical and developmental needs. We commend your recognition of this and your inclusion of important child protection provisions such as timely access to pediatric specialists, the right to choose a pediatrician as a child's primary care provider, and the use of pediatric expertise and criteria in review proceedings as key provisions of your legislation.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of children's health. We look forward to working with you to enact strong patient protection legislation this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Graham Newson, Director of our Washington Office, if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Berman".

Steve Berman, MD, FAAP
President

Cc: Members, United States House of Representatives